Arts exhibit set t

Japan Times, Friday 95.7.21, 1st edition, p. 2.

By MEL TSUJI
Special to The Japan Times

After years of preparation, and several anxious months when the whole project seemed in danger of being canceled, arrangements have been finalized for the largest exposition of Japanese culture ever assembled in North America.

The show, called Today's Japan, is scheduled to be held between Sept. 17 and Nov. 26 at Toronto's Harborfront, a unique complex of theaters, restaurants and craft stores on the city's waterfront.

Canadian officials, here for about a week, have wound up months of sensitive fence-mending with the Japanese to smooth the way for the exhibition. Just four months ago the show faced possible cancellation and threatened relations between the two countries.

William Boyle, one of two Canadians here representing Harborfront, said all contracts have finally been signed and details completed.

"I'm happy to be in Tokyo to announce the exhibit will go on after four years of preparation," Boyle said at a news conference.

More th
better kno
dancers, n
ers will perform during the 10-week run.

The project nearly crashed to the ground March 31 when the Canadian government announced it was cutting the Harborfront budget as part of broad cost-cutting measures it was introducing at all levels of the government.

Enraged over the cuts, Boyle announced he was shutting down the Harborfront complex permanently and fired all the staff. He said he could not operate without a long-term financial commitment from the federal government.

Japan responded, in a diplomatic snit, that trade relations between the two countries could be affected if the show was canceled.

For five weeks, the story got front-page play in all of the Toronto papers, and a prominent mention on all the evening television news shows.

Embarrassed by the impasse, and troubled over its tien compromised. It secured funding to allow Harborfront to operate for an additional two years, leaving the complex authorities to find alternative sources of funding in the future.

"Those were difficult times," said a now-smiling Boyle.

He said the most difficult problem he had to handle was with the Japanese, who were aghast that the exhibition could be allowed to fold.

But Boyle believes it was Japanese commitment and belief in the exhibit that changed the minds of the Canadian government, pushing it to find the extra funds.

During the crisis, he said he had to write and call dozens of people involved in the exhibit in Japan to calm frayed nerves and ensure their continued support.

In this first visit to Japan since the episode, Boyle said he has knocked on a lot of doors "and made a lot of thank-yous for hanging in while we were hanging."

¥15 million goes to subsidize parties

The government paid out some ¥15 billion in taxpayer money Thursday to eight political parties, including the three ruling parties, under the new subsidy system introduced as part of its steps for political reform, the Home Affairs Ministry said.

The measure has drawn fire both from inside and outside the government, as critics say it is an official giveaway that breeds corruption rather than a move that prevents such consequences despite its supporters' argument that it is intended to clear politics of corruption and greed.

Ministry officials said the Finance Ministry remitted half of the ¥29.9 billion in annual government subsidies to the eight political parties through the Bank of Japan on Thursday morning.

The Liberal Democratic Party, the nation's biggest party, received about ¥6.6 billion, the largest opposition party, Shinshinto, was given ¥4.3 billion and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party of Japan roughly ¥3 billion.

New Party Sakigake, which together with the LDP and the SDPJ makes up the coalition government, got ¥362 million.

The size of the payout to each party is determined by their number of Diet members and their percentage of the votes cast in the latest national elections.

Government subsidies were introduced as part of political reform legislation, which also calls for a new electoral system for the powerful House of Representatives.

Both the Japanese Communist Party and Niin Club, which met the requirement for the payout plan by having more than five Diet members, declined to accept the payments, citing their opposition to the new system.

MOVING?

Let us know at the Japan Times Circulation desk as soon as you find out the address you are moving to.
That way you'll find a window on domestic and world affairs waiting for you at your new place.

Subscription and delivery inquiries . . .
CALL *TOLL-FREE TEL 0120-03-6242* (Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
or TOKYO HEAD OFFICE 03-3453-4350 FAX 03-3452-1298
OSAKA OFFICE 06-445-0081 FAX 06-445-0887

The Japan Times
Circulation Dept.

FAX SHEET ..... *TOLL-FREE FAX* ***0120-05-1298***

NAME OF SUBSCRIBER: _____

PRESENT (OLD) ADDRESS: APT# _____

Physicist recalls race by Japan for an A-bomb

The Associated Press

Japan had hoped to defeat the United States in World War II with atomic weapons, but the Americans finished building their bomb first, according to a physicist who worked on Japan's bomb project.

Tatsusaburo Suzuki, 83, said Wednesday that his 50-man team had worked frantically to develop an atomic bomb to use against American forces.

"Our theoretical physics was very advanced," Suzuki said. "I was confident at the time we could have built a bomb if we had better equipment."

And, he said, the design of the American bomb showed that Japan was on the right track.

But while both sides worked with much the same knowledge, the United States was able to outspend Japan on research, he said.

Unlike many American scientists who opposed the bomb on grounds that it would inevitably kill tens of thousands of civilians, Suzuki's colleagues were not troubled by the nature of the weapon, he told a news conference in Tokyo.

"We had no doubts about using it if we could," he said.

As one of the nation's handful of atomic experts, Suzuki visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki soon after U.S. atomic bombs incinerated them.

"After seeing that destruction," he said, "I am of the firm opinion that atomic weapons should not have been used. If you saw the women and children of Hiroshima and Nagasaki dying, weeping for water, you would feel the same way."

One of Japan's greatest stumbling blocks was the lack of large electromagnetic facilities. Ironically, the largest one in the country was bought from the United States before the war, he said.

The researchers suspected the United States and Germany also were working toward an atomic weapon, but Japan never shared any information about its research with its Axis ally.

Japan asked Germany for two tons of uranium in the early years of the war, but was refused because it would not specify how the material would be used, he said.

Japan finally obtained its uranium from an area in what is now North Korea, he said.